

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet(s) of drawings reflect changes to Figure(s) 3 and replace the original sheet(s) of these Figure(s).

Appendix: One (1) Annotated Sheet and One (1) Replacement Sheet.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Drawings

By this amendment, revised Figure 3 is submitted, which corrects the reference numerals for the “Fresh-News Management Unit” and “Communication Unit” to correspond to the numerals specified in the disclosure, for example, at page 20, lines 21-25 and page 18, lines 3-6.

No new matter will be added to this application by entry of these amendments. Entry is respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 2, 6, 8, 9, and 30-33 are pending in this application and are rejected, of which claims 2, 8, 9 are independent in form. Claim 2 is amended to recite a receiving apparatus comprising, *inter alia*, “retaining means for retaining the received news information in a storage device; . . . wherein said voice output means outputs the text content of the fresh news information as a voice preferentially if said determining means determines the degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the news information which is retained in the storage device and is to be outputted next according to the order.” Support for these amendments may be found throughout the application as originally filed, including, for example, at page 17, lines 7-11 and page 22, line 26 – page 23, line 14.

Claim 8 is directed to a method for the apparatus according to claim 2 and is similarly amended.

Claim 9 is directed to a computer readable medium for the apparatus according to claim 2 and is similarly amended.

No new matter is introduced by these amendments. Entry is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action has rejected claims 2, 6, 8, 9 and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Kubota (U.S. Patent No. 5,754,172) in view of in view of Tsujimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,271,841) and further in view of Stahl (U.S. Patent No. 7,072,932).

The Office Action acknowledges that Kubota and Tsujimoto both “fail to explicitly teach determining means, when said receiving means receives fresh news information; wherein said voice output means outputs the text content of the fresh news information as a voice preferentially if said determining means determines the degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information is higher than that of the content of other news information which has already been received.” [12/28/06 Office Action, p. 3, 4]. Rather, the Office Action alleges that Stahl teaches this subject matter. In support of its contention, the Office Action cites to the Abstract, col. 1, ll. 37-48, col. 2, ll. 15-23, col. 3, ll. 1-12 and 45-59, col. 4, line 58 – col. 5, ll. 17, col. 5, ll. 46-57, and col. 7, ll. 27-41. [12/28/06 Office Action, p. 4].

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of the pending claims and of the prior art in the stated rejections, and traverses these rejections. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 6, 8, 9, and 30-33 as properly understood by those skilled in the art are patentably distinct from Stahl, Kubota and Tsujimoto taken alone or in combination with other cited references.

Applicant has amended the claims to clarify an aspect of the present invention, which Applicant submits distinguishes the claimed invention from the cited prior art at least in this regard. Specifically, amended claim 2 recites:

2. A receiving apparatus, which is communicably connected to a transmitting apparatus that transmits news information that contains text, for receiving the news information from said transmitting apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving the news information from said transmitting apparatus;

retaining means for retaining the received news information in a storage device;

voice output means for outputting the text content of the received news information retained in the storage device as a voice in an order predetermined for every genre of news information based upon the content of the news information;

determining means, when said receiving means receives fresh news information, for determining degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information; and

display means for displaying an animation, which imitates a speaking individual, in conformity with the output of said voice,

wherein said voice output means outputs the text content of the fresh news information as a voice preferentially if said determining means determines the degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the news information which is retained in the storage device and is to be outputted next according to the order.

Applicant respectfully submits that Stahl only teaches determining from the user's profile what types of news to deliver as text, audio or video. For example, the passage at Stahl, col. 1, ll. 37-48 describes customized information delivery in user-selected formats:

"The present information is directed to a network-based service where different sets of customized information are delivered to a

user at different times to different destinations (i.e., different user devices) selected by the user. For example, a user may desire to have a customized set of information such as stock quotes and horoscopes delivered in an audio format to his Internet radio (i.e., a radio configured to receive audio information from the internet). A user may also have desire to have another or the same set of customized information delivered in a video format to his internet television (i.e., a television set configured to receive video information from the Internet).”

Further review of remaining passages and the balance of Stahl’s disclosure shows that Stahl is silent regarding determining the *degree of importance*, and is also silent about outputting text as a voice if the degree of importance is higher than the content of the information already received. That is, Stahl is silent with regard to outputting the fresh news preferentially when the degree of importance of the content of fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the received news which is retained in the storage device in a predetermined order, and is to be outputted next according to the order. Accordingly, Stahl does not disclose, teach or suggest voice output means “wherein said voice output means outputs the text content of the fresh news information as a voice preferentially if said determining means determines the degree of importance of the content of the fresh news information is higher than that of the content of the news information which is retained in the storage device and is to be outputted next according to the order,” as recited in Applicant’s amended claim 2.

Furthermore, review of Kubota and Tsujimoto also show that both references are silent with regard to the above feature recited in Applicant’s claim 2. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is patentably distinct from Stahl, taken alone or in combination with Kubota and Tsujimoto, and is in allowable form.

Accordingly, for at least similar reasons, claims 6 and 30-33 depending from claim 2 are also in allowable form.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least similar reasons, independent claims 8 and 9, which are directed to a method for the apparatus according to claim 2 and to a computer readable medium for the apparatus according to claim 2, respectively, are in allowable form.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. These statements should not be regarded in any way as an admission that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art.

Dependent Claims

Applicant has not independently addressed the rejections of the dependent claims. Applicant submits that, in view of the amendments to the claims presented herein and, for at least similar reasons as to why the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend are believed allowable as discussed supra, the dependent claims are also allowable. Applicant however, reserves the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary or appropriate.

CONCLUSION

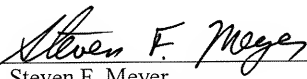
Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below should a telephone conference be useful or necessary.

AUTHORIZATION

While no fees or extensions of time are believed due, in the event that an extension of time is required to render this filing timely, such extension is hereby petitioned and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4775.

Respectfully submitted,
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